

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A video camera provided with a recording medium for recording, a mechanical portion for writing record information onto said recording medium, an optical system for taking an image of an object, a controlling portion for controlling recording of the image, a battery, an external input portion for input operation by a user, and a cabinet containing said recording medium, said mechanical portion, said optical system, said controlling portion, said battery and said external input portion, comprising:

a medium detecting portion detecting ejection of said recording medium from an opening formed in said cabinet for removal of said recording medium; and

a medium insertion preventing mechanism preventing re-insertion of said recording medium when said medium detecting portion detects ejection of said recording medium.

2. (Previously Presented) The video camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
a recording capacity detecting portion detecting a remaining capacity of said recording medium, and

a current stop function portion for stopping current supply from said battery to at least one of said mechanical portion, controlling portion and optical system when said recording capacity detecting portion determines that the remaining capacity is zero.

3. (Original) The video camera according to claim 2, further comprising
a display portion, and

take-up instruction displaying means for displaying an instruction to take out said
recording medium onto said display portion when said recording capacity detecting portion
determines that the remaining capacity of said recording medium is zero.

4. (Original) The video camera according to claim 3, further comprising return
instruction displaying means for displaying an instruction to return said video camera onto said
display portion when said medium detecting portion determines that the recording medium has
been ejected.

5. (Currently Amended) A video camera provided with a non-solid state recording medium for recording, a mechanical portion for writing record information onto said recording medium, an optical system for taking an image of an object, a controlling portion for controlling recording of the image, a battery, an external input portion for input operation by a user, and a cabinet for containing said recording medium, said mechanical portion, said optical system, said controlling portion, said battery and said external input portion, said video camera further comprising:

an opening detecting portion for detecting formation of an opening in said cabinet for removal of said recording medium; and

a current stop function portion for stopping current supply from said battery to at least one of said mechanical portion, controlling portion and optical system when said opening detecting portion detects formation of said opening; and

wherein the current stop function portion is configured so as to maintain stoppage of current flow even in case where the user inserts another non-solid state recording medium into the video camera.

6. (Original) The video camera according to claim 5, further comprising:
a display portion;
a recording capacity detecting portion for determining a remaining capacity of said recording medium; and

a take-up instruction displaying portion for displaying an instruction to take out said recording medium onto said display portion when said recording capacity detecting portion determines that the remaining capacity of said recording medium is zero.

7. (Original) The video camera according to claim 6, further comprising usage inhibit displaying means for displaying to a user onto said display portion an indication that usage of said video camera is inhibited when said opening is detected by said opening detecting portion.

8. (Original) The video camera according to claim 5, wherein said cabinet includes a body resin portion of a casing of said video camera, and a cover resin portion integrally formed with said body resin portion, and said cover resin portion is opened to form said opening.

9. (Previously Presented) The video camera according to claim 8, characterized in that a feature is formed at a boundary of said body resin portion and said cover resin portion, said boundary being configured so said cover resin portion is detached from said resin body portion along the boundary.

10. (Original) The video camera according to claim 9, characterized in that a linear groove is formed along said feature.

11. (Previously Presented) The video camera of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a non-solid state recording medium.

12. (Previously Presented) The video camera of claim 11, wherein the non-solid state recording medium is a magnetic tape.

13. (Currently Amended) The video camera of claim 1, wherein said medium insertion prevention mechanism is configured so as to be reset by an authorized one other than the user following actuation of the medium insertion prevention mechanism so as to allow insertion of another recording medium.

14. (Currently Amended) The video camera of claim 1, wherein the video camera is configured and arranged so as to be reusable and reconditioned following a use by an authorized one other than the user.

15. (Previously Presented) The video camera of claim 14, wherein said medium insertion prevention mechanism is configured so as to be reset during said reconditioning so as to allow insertion of another recording medium so said another recording medium can be recorded to during subsequent use of the video camera.

16. (Currently Amended) The video camera of claim 4, wherein:

the video camera is configured and arranged so as to be reusable and reconditioned by an ~~authorized one other than the user~~ following the return of the video camera; and

said medium insertion prevention mechanism is configured so as to be reset during said reconditioning so as to allow insertion of another recording medium so said another recording medium can be recorded to during subsequent use of the video camera.

17. (Previously Presented) The video camera of claim 5, wherein the non-solid state recording medium is a magnetic tape;

18. (Currently Amended) The video camera of claim 5, wherein said current stop function portion ~~stops~~ is configured so as to stop current flow to prevent subsequent usage of the camera by the ~~any~~ user.

19. (Canceled) ~~The video camera of claim 18, wherein the current stop function portion is configured so as to maintain stoppage of current flow even in case where the user inserts another non-solid state recording medium into the video camera.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The video camera of claim 5, wherein the video camera is configured and arranged so as to be reusable and reconditioned by an authorized one ~~other than the user~~ following a use of the video camera.

21. (Currently Amended) The video camera of ~~claim 20~~ claim 13, wherein said medium insertion prevention mechanism is configured so as to be reset during said reconditioning so as to allow insertion of another recording medium so that said another recording medium can be recorded to during subsequent use of the video camera.

22. (Previously Presented) The video camera of claim 5 wherein:
said cabinet includes a body resin portion of a casing of said video camera, and a cover resin portion integrally formed with said body resin portion;
said cover resin portion and said body resin portion are configured and arranged so that said cover resin portion is detachable from the said body resin portion; and
the detachment of the cover resin portion from the body resin portion forms the opening in said cabinet being detected by said opening detecting portion.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The video camera of claim 5,~~ A video camera provided with a non-solid state recording medium for recording, a mechanical portion for writing record information onto said recording medium, an optical system for taking an image of an object, a

Applicant: H. Okdada
U.S.S.N.: 09/808,320
Response to Final Office Action
Page 10 of 17

controlling portion for controlling recording of the image, a battery, an external input portion for input operation by a user, and a cabinet for containing said recording medium, said mechanical portion, said optical system, said controlling portion, said battery and said external input portion, said video camera further comprising:

_____ an opening detecting portion for detecting formation of an opening in said cabinet for removal of said recording medium;

_____ a current stop function portion for stopping current supply from said battery to at least one of said mechanical portion, controlling portion and optical system when said opening detecting portion detects formation of said opening; and

_____ wherein said opening detecting portion and current stop function portion are arranged so operation of the video camera is controlled so camera usage is limited to one recording medium.